

JULY 1965

**EDITORIAL**

COPYRIGHT

*Extraordinary Recognition for Systems*

The science of Systems received extraordinary recognition recently when one of its most spectacular practitioners was named to the vital job of Director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

William F. Raborn, CIA's new chief, is the administrative genius credited with developing the Polaris missile three years ahead of schedule through use of the then obscure Program Evaluation Review Technique. With PERT as his guide, Raborn set precise timetables for each phase of the enormously complicated program, assuring that everything would mesh without time-wasting gaps or overlaps in the schedule. He literally papered the walls of his office with flow charts indicating the progress of every major phase of the Polaris program.

Romantics like to think of the CIA in terms of James Bond-type characters, when in reality, its most serious concern is the processing of data. The agency receives an average of 2,000 reports a day from all over the world. These must be distilled into an accurate five-page estimate of enemy capabilities and intentions for daily review by President Johnson. In addition, the CIA maintains a card-file index of over 50 million documents. So the importance of data processing know-how to its operations is evident.

Municipal as well as federal government activities are fertile fields for data processing. The explosive growth of American cities has presented their administrators with extraordinarily complex paperwork problems that can only be met by either straining the public payrolls to the breaking point, or by turning to modern data processing procedures.

Data processing has already demonstrated its ability to handle traffic control, short and long-range economic planning and the information problems of land use and public health.

Just as the new chief of the CIA is a Systems man, the mayor of tomorrow may well be a person whose value lies in his ability to effectively marshal the resources of the